

Weekly Weather Crop Report



In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending October 2, 2005

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending October 2, 2005**. Harvesting continues as farmers were back in the fields surveying damage from Hurricane Rita. Cotton and rice were impacted from the storm with heavy winds and rain, affecting quality and increasing harvesting time. Reports of cotton on the ground, especially in north Mississippi, and downed rice has made timely harvesting very important. Hay harvesting is beginning to wrap up, and preparations for winter planting are already underway. Soil moisture was rated 7 percent very short, 21 percent short, 62 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2004	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Harvested	97	94	99	97	--	--	--	--	--
Cotton	Open Bolls	96	94	95	96	11	17	34	36	2
	Harvested	31	19	41	40					
Rice	Mature	100	97	100	99	10	12	31	45	2
	Harvested	77	60	93	81					
Sorghum	Harvested	100	99	100	99	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Turning Color	100	99	100	98	--	--	--	--	--
	Shedding Leaves	97	94	99	91					
	Harvested	81	78	90	66					
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	60	45	47	53	0	0	40	60	0
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	99	98	92	95	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						11	16	29	38	6
Pasture						18	28	27	17	10

County Agent Comments

“Rain and high winds from Rita have really hurt our cotton and rice. We lost as much as 40% of our cotton and the rest of the rice was blown down. Water also got over some of the soybeans that have not been harvested. The storms have cost us several million dollars.”

— Don Respons, Bolivar

“Producers in Tunica County estimate that between 5 and 15 percent of their cotton is on the ground, depending on when and if it was defoliated due to the remnants of Hurricane Rita. Most of the rice has lodged due to last week’s rain and wind. Rice yields will be down due to some sprouting and inability of headers to get all the downed rice; harvesting rice will be at least twice as slow as normal.”

— Anthony Bland, Tunica

“Producers are harvesting corn, soybeans and cotton as weather permits.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Some ryegrass ground is being prepared for planting and some has already been planted. I have not been informed of any armyworm outbreaks yet. With the climatic conditions that we have experienced with the 2 hurricanes, it might be wise to plant some type of cereal grain with the ryegrass just in case blast hits us again. I have seen several large ryegrass fields that have been wiped out by blast in recent years and planting only ryegrass is a big gamble.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Very little rainfall was received from Hurricane Rita in the area. Trees are still down on fences and producers are having difficulty repairing fences due to a shortage of barbed wire in the area as well as fence posts that are in high demand over the entire area. Pastures that do not have down trees and have adequate fencing are being over grazed at this point. The entire pecan crop is lost with many of the trees down or severely damaged and will have to be cut down or pruned back. Machinery is picking cotton, but we will have very low yields this year.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Harvest is in full swing on the cotton; we lost some to Rita when it blew out on the ground. Yields are running 750 to 850 on the earliest cotton and hopefully it will get better.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Rain and wind from Hurricane Rita delayed field operations. Harvesting of all crops continue, but some cotton that was ready to harvest was blown to the ground.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Rain from the hurricane halted harvest for several days. We had severe cotton losses due to high winds and rain. All the rice that didn't go down with Katrina is now down and harvest will be slow. Dry weather from now until harvest is essential to prevent further losses.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Corn harvesting has really slowed since most remaining fields are down as a result of storms. Soybeans are still doing well with harvesters starting on late Group V fields. Cotton harvesting gets more discouraging as more leaves come off. Storm damage from Katrina will prove to be much more severe than we thought.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Corn and soybean harvests progressed rapidly during the week. Hay harvest is about complete. Winter planting is getting underway and armyworms have been a problem in several fields.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Farmers are busy trying to get winter annuals planted and hoping for cool weather and rain. Many farmers have begun feeding hay due to the shortage of forage. The main focus of the week was post-Katrina clean up.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Dairy and beef producers continue facing problems associated with Hurricane Katrina, primarily in heavy pasture stocking rates due to destroyed fences and the inability to get cool-season pastures planted. Two county dairy herds were sold last week and several beef producers liquidated their cattle. Sadly, many more producers are seriously considering getting out of business to cut their losses in trying to recover from this devastating storm. Hay will definitely be in short supply this fall and winter for those producers who try to remain in business.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Beef producers are completing hay harvest. Winter forages are being planted, but more rain is needed. Most producers have repaired perimeter fences but are waiting for cooler weather to start on less crucial cross fences. Tree farmers are salvaging downed timber as best they can; prices that are being offered are depressing to say the least. Many were banking on timber for their retirement years, but most lost entire stands in certain areas.”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“More moisture is needed to plant ryegrass. Hay continues to be harvested. It will be difficult to harvest the remainder of the corn because the storm blew it to the ground. Timber landowners are busy salvaging timber. Harvest contractors are needed to remove the downed timber, but some landowners are afraid that they may not get a contractor before the timber goes BAD.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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Weather Summary from September 26, 2005 to October 2, 2005 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Cleveland	89	49	73	70	+3	1.61	+1.06	3	6.26				
Lambert	90	47	71			1.49	+0.81	3	3.52				
Tunica	88	49	71	69	+2	0.84	+0.21	2	3.60				
Extreme/Average	90	47	72	70	+2	1.31	+0.62	3	3.60				
2. North-Central													
Calhoun City	87	49	71	69	+2	1.51	+0.78	1	1.87				
Hickory Flat	88	44	70	67	+3	1.63	+0.82	1	3.43				
Independence	87	42	69	68	+1	1.74	+1.01	2	2.68				
Oxford	89	46	72	68	+4	3.25	+2.41	2	4.43				
Extreme/Average	89	42	70	68	+2	1.63	+0.84	1					
3. Northeast													
Booneville	84	51	70	67	+3	4.40	+3.61	1	5.74				
Iuka	86	42	69	65	+4	2.06	+1.19	1	3.98				
Ripley	86	46	69	67	+2	1.72	+0.91	1	2.98				
Tupelo	90	50	72			3.00		1	4.35				
Verona	90	50	72	69	+3	2.45	+1.62	1	3.07				
Extreme/Average	90	42	70	68	+2	2.73	+1.89	1	3.80				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	92	54	73	72	+1	0.15	-0.63	1	4.17				
Rolling Fork	93	54	76	71	+5	0.03	-0.74	1	3.97				
Stoneville	91	52	75	71	+4	0.10	-0.65	1	7.14				
Yazoo City	92	55	76	72	+4	2.00	+1.25	1	3.62				
Extreme/Average	93	52	75	71	+4	0.57	-0.20	1	3.90				
5. Central													
Canton	91	55	75	71	+4	2.43	+1.73	1	8.89				
Carthage				70		1.60	+0.86	1	2.70				
Eupora	88	49	73	68	+5	3.42	+2.55	1	3.73				
Lexington	89	51	73	70	+3	1.57	+0.87	1	3.82				
Extreme/Average	91	49	73	70	+3	2.26	+1.49	1	2.70				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	86	54	73	69	+4	4.86	+4.00	1	6.01				
Houston	88	46	70	67	+3	2.36	+1.54	1	2.59				
Philadelphia	92	58	78	70	+8	1.71	+1.01	2	3.04				
State University				69		0.00	-0.77	0	1.64				
Extreme/Average	92	46	75	70	+5	2.19	+1.40	1	6.01				
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	94	59	77	72	+5	0.83	-0.10	2	3.33				
Natchez	93	56	77	73	+4	0.00	-0.84	0	8.00				
Oakley	95	55	76	71	+5	3.50	+2.87	1	5.31				
Vicksburg	93	55	77			1.34		1	4.09				
Extreme/Average	95	55	77	72	+5	1.42	+0.59	1					
8. South-Central													
Collins				71		0.10	-0.79	1	0.35				
Columbia	93	63	80	72	+8	0.07	-0.79	1	0.51				
Tylertown	91	63	79	73	+6	0.00	-0.88	0	1.09				
Extreme/Average	93	63	80	72	+8	0.06	-0.79	1	0.51				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	95	63	81			0.21		1	0.21				
Hattiesburg				73		0.30	-0.56	1	0.52				
Laurel	92	62	79	71	+8	1.78	+0.92	1	2.00				
Newton	90	54	76	70	+6	2.95	+2.18	2	3.61				
Extreme/Average	95	54	80	71	+9	0.76	-0.08	1					
10.Coastal													
Gulfport				75		0.00	-1.09	0	0.23				
Poplarville				73		0.00	-0.87	0	0.00				
Waveland				73									
Extreme/Average				74									
State	95	42	75	71	+4	1.45	+0.65	1	3.44				

DFN = Departure from Normal.